Message Text

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PASS AID AND USDA, HEW OFFICE INTL AFFAIRS, WHITE HOUSE (PETER BOURNE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, OCON
SUBJECT: FAO AD HOC CMTE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES, ROME,
MARCH 6-10

REF: ROME 4451

- 1. AT SUBJECT MEETING ON MARCH 8, DR. MAGRABI DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT..
- 2. BEGIN TEXT: U.S. STATEMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM 8
 IN THE FIELD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE NO ACTIVITY HAS A
 HIGHER PRIORITY IN OUR VIEW THAN EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE CRIPPLING
 EFFECTS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. WE BELIEVE THE RIGHT TO AN
 ADEQUATELY NUTRITIOUS DIET IS A BASIC RIGHT OF EVERYONE AND ITS
 FULFILLMENT IS A BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL GOVERNMENT.
 OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FAO
 MEMBERS HAVE REPEATEDLY REVIEWED PROGRAM PLANS FOR NUTRITION
 AND REPORTS OF PROGRESS, IDENTIFIED GAPS AND WEAKNESSES,
 EXPRESSED THESE AS SPECIFIC PRIORITY CONCERNS, AND URGED
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APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION. OUR ASSESSMENT AND THE VIEWS WE HAVE HEARD EXPRESSED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS AT THIS MEETING LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT ACTION ON THESE SUGGESTIONS HAS SO FAR BEEN INADEQUATE.

WE FEEL CONCRETE STEPS MUST NOW BE TAKEN TO DEAL BETTER WITH QUESTIONS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. WE HOPE THIS CMTE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO FOR STRENGTHENING FUTURE

NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS AND THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL ALSO SERVE TO GUIDE DISCUSSIONS BY MININSTERS AT THE JUNE 1978 WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING. THE RECOMMENDATIONS THE U.S. DELEGATION WOULD SUGGEST ARE:

A. THIS CMTE SHOULD AGREE ON A CLEAR DELINEATION OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF FAO IN RELATION TO NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE SUGGEST THAT APPROPRIATE ROLES FOR FAO IN NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT ARE:

- -- MAINTENANCE OF A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR DATA COMPILATION AND DISSEMINATION;
- --ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES RELATING TO HUMAN NUTRITION; AND
- --ASSISTANCE TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN FOOD AND NUTRITION DATA COLLECTION, PROGRAM PLANNING, AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DEVELOPING LOCAL SUPPORT INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS TO EFFECT IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH AND SANITATION AND APPROPRIATE SELECTION AND UTILIZATION OF FOOD BY HOUSEHOLDS, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS.

B. IN LIGHT OF FAO CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 8/77 ON NUTRITION,
MECHANISMS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN FAO FOR:

--EVALUATING THE NUTRITIONAL IMPACT OF APPROPRIATE ONGOING
PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THOSE NOT SPECIFICALLY TARGETED ON NUTRITION;

--IDENTIFYING IN ALL APPROPRIATE NEW PROGRAMS SPECIFIC
NUTRITIONAL OBJECTIVES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE POOREST COUNSTRIES
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AND FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS;

--OBTAINING INFORMATION IN DEPTH TO ASSESS THE NUTRITIONAL IMPACT OF SELECTED PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS;

--INITIATING OR STRENGTHENING OF ACTIVITIES THAT ARE MOST EFFECTIVE IN ALLEVIATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION; AND --REPORTING TO FAO MEMBERS ON A REGULAR BASIS DATA ON

RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH FAO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO IDENTIFIABLE NUTRITION OBJECTIVES AND RESULTING PROGRESS IN THE ALLEVITION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON NUTRITION MAY REQUIRE SOME REDIRECTION OF PRGRAM AND RESOURCES AND THEREFORE MAY I REPEAT A POINT WE MADE EARLIER AND URGE THAT THE DG CONSIDER PROPOSING SUCH CHANGES, IF NEEDED, AT THE AUTUMN 1978 COUNCIL SESSION AND THAT IN ANY CASE APPROPRIATE PROGRAM CHANGES SHOULD BE FRAMED FOR THE 1980-81 PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET.

C. FAO SHOULD CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSOLIDATED OVERVIEW DOCUMENT ON NUTRITION THAT WOULD REFLECT:

--A CLEAR DELINEATION OF ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG

THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND BY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING BOTH THE FOOD CONSUMPTION AND THE HEALTH AND SANITATION ASPECTS;

- --A SURVEY OF EXISTING AND NEEDED PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SUCH PROGRAMS:
- --THE CURENT SITUATION IN THE NEEDIEST AND MOST NUTRITIONAL-LY VULNEABLE POPULATIONS;
- --EXPERIENCE REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM APPROACHES; AND
- --TABULATION OF RESOURCES BUDGETED FOR NUTRITION BY THE SEVERAL AGENCIES.

WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE KIND OF DOCUMENT FOR WHICH THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (JUNE 1978) IS LIKELY TO ASK. WE WOULD HOPE THAT A REPORT OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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AVAILABLE FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL FIFTH SESSION IN 1979.

WE COULD EXPAND ON THESE POINTS, BUT TO SAVE THE TIME OF THIS CMTE, WE OFFER TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR INFORMATION A PAPER WHICH PROVIDES SOME BACKGROUND CONCERNING THESE PROPOSALS. END TEXT.GARDNER

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